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no effect. Nor can he learn in what states a chattel mortgage is to be recorded, or transcribed *in extenso*, and in what states it is to be simply filed for preservation and inspection. It is stated, for example, that in Michigan and Kansas it "must be recorded" (pp. 254, 255), whereas in fact, in those states, it, or a copy of it, is to be filed simply; while it is said that in Ohio and Vermont it must be filed, whereas in Vermont it really must be recorded, and in Ohio, since 1878, it may be recorded; *Stevenson v. Colopy*, 48 Oh. St. 237. It may be observed that all of these points might have been noted without taking much space, for the change of a word would, in many instances, have been enough; but even if several lines were needed, they should, for the sake of accuracy, have been taken.

Under the title "acknowledgment" one might expect to find some of the errors and omissions just mentioned corrected and supplied, but, if so, he will be disappointed. Indeed, this chapter is not free from similar blemishes. For instance, the only Michigan form of a certificate of acknowledgment (p. 33) is inappropriate for Michigan, if not fatally defective, and the statute authorizing it was repealed over four years before this work was published. (Pub. Acts, 1895, No. 185.) The useful "American Bar Association Forms" of certificates of acknowledgment for an individual acting in his own right, by attorney, and for a corporation grantor, which have been adopted in Michigan and in five or six other states, are, by the way, not specially mentioned.

Nevertheless, in spite of such imperfections, this work is to be commended as one of the most useful collections of general forms; like any useful tool, it must be used by one who knows how to use it.

JAMES H. BREWSTER

NOTES ON THE UNITED STATES REPORTS.—A brief chronological digest of all points determined in the decisions of the Supreme Court, with notes showing the influence, following and present authority of each case, as disclosed by the citations, comprising all citing cases in that court, the intermediate and inferior federal courts, and the courts of last resort of all the states. By Walter Malins Rose. Twelve volumes and an Index. San Francisco: Bancroft-Whitney Co., 1899-1901.

This is a work made up of two leading features admirably united. It is, in the first place, a full and exhaustive digest of all of the points involved in all of the cases in the United States Supreme Court Reports from 2 Dallas to 172 U. S., chronologically arranged.

It gives, in the second place, all of the citations of each of these cases upon each of the several points involved in it, in all subsequent cases in the Supreme Court of the United States, all of the lower Federal courts, and the courts of last resort of all of the states and territories. This occupies twelve large volumes. The thirteenth volume is an index-digest of all this matter, referring both to the original volumes of reports and to the previous volumes of Notes, thus becoming at once not only an index to the reports themselves and valuable as such, but also the key to the wealth of citations grouped together in the previous volumes. This index follows the scheme of classification used in the Century Edition of the American Digest.

No mere statement of its contents can give any adequate idea of the enormous labor which the preparation of this work must necessarily have involved;

neither can it give any adequate idea of the enormous value of the finished product. Regarded as a mere digest, the work is invaluable because it brings to the surface not only all the familiar matter but also many points of interest and value which have heretofore not been digested at all.

But it is from the standpoint of the citations that this work is most important. With industry and patience little short of marvelous, all Federal and State reports have been searched for citations of each of the cases reported in the United States reports; notes and abstracts of the cases so citing them have been made; and the whole enormous mass has been classified, arranged, condensed and rewritten until under each point decided in the original case there is to be found collected not merely a list of the other cases in which that case has been cited but statements of the point and holding of each of these citing cases, so that the full and precise effect of all is obvious at a glance.

The amount of "side-light" which this system of annotation throws not merely on the case itself but upon the whole range of questions more or less closely related to it, is remarkable, as a single illustration may serve to indicate. *Brown v. Maryland* (12 Wheat. 410) involved primarily but one question—the right of the state to tax the importer or the importation of goods. Incidentally many other questions were discussed, or suggestions made, the "original package" doctrine perhaps being the most conspicuous. These discussions and suggestions have since proved to be extremely fertile, and the annotation of this case shows that thirteen such related points have been gathered from it and applied in 231 Federal and 224 State cases.

The United States reports are invaluable to every practitioner. In the Federal field—and all the movements of the times are tending to increase its scope and influence—these decisions are, of course, supreme and final; but even in that field wherein, by reason of the residence of the parties and the like, questions of general law arise for determination, the decisions of the Supreme Court have come to be almost authoritative. If any proof of this were needed, these Notes themselves furnish conclusive evidence in the countless instances in which the Federal cases have been cited, approved and followed by the State tribunals. Even without the United States reports, the Notes would be of very great value and importance, but to the owner of those reports these Notes are indispensable. The books are well printed and bound, and in quantity the measure is overflowing, as the volumes will average more than 1000 pages each.

FLOYD R. MECHEM

BRITTON: An English translation and notes, by Francis Morgan Nichols, of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister at Law, with an Introduction by Hon. Simeon E. Baldwin, LL.D., professor of law in Yale University, John Byrne & Co., Washington, D. C., 1901. Sheep, 8vo. pp. xxvii, 649.

This is the second volume in the Legal Classic Series—a very commendable project by the publishers to reprint the early treatises of the English Law. Lord Coke calls Britton "an excellent work written in the days of Edward I, of the common laws, which remain to this day." Blackstone speaks of the author as one of those "to whom great veneration is paid by students of the common law," cited as authority, and "for the most part law at this day." Reeves says, in the older works the law was "disguised in the Latin tongue,